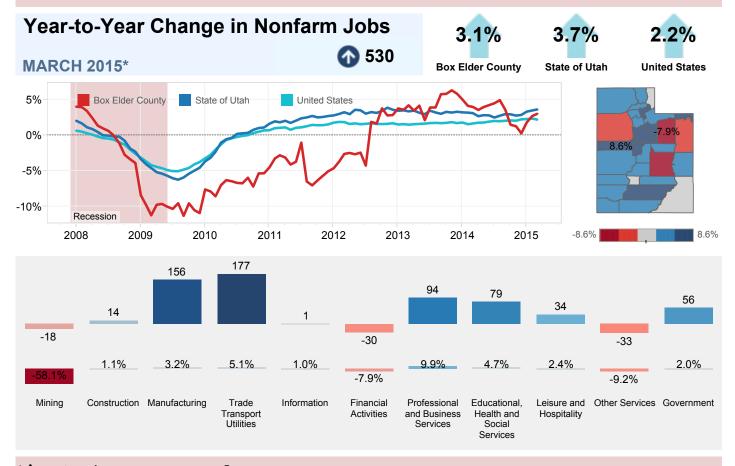
# **ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT**

# Box Elder County

**Updated 8/27/2015**Utah Department of Workforce Services



# How's the economy?

Box Elder County has picked back up in early 2015. Employment growth improved markedly after a lull in late 2014. Taxable sales were up with particular strength in motor vehicles thanks in part to low oil prices. Unemployment remained low and initial unemployment insurance claims are back to pre-recession levels. Wages are still flagging a bit, but overall, the indicators are reaffirming that the long term trajectory of economic performance for the county is still positive.

#### Jobs

Box Elder County added 530 new jobs, accelerating to 3.1 percent year-over employment growth in March 2015 after seeing a bit of a slowdown in late 2014.



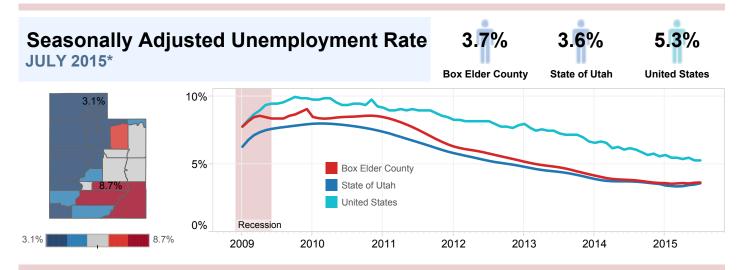
The manufacturing and retail trade industries led job growth in Box Elder, adding 156 and 115 jobs respectively in March 2015.



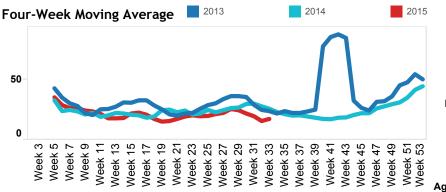
Employment growth in the telecom, cable, and internet provision and distribution was also notable, adding around 150 new jobs to the county, but those gains were offset by other losses in the professional and business services industries.

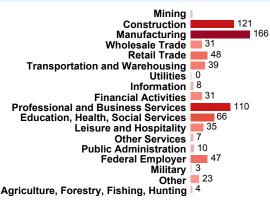


Matt Schroeder, 801-526-9404, matthewschroeder@utah.gov

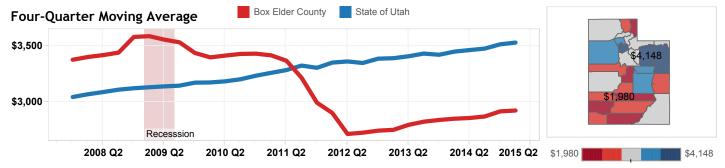


## Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance YTD August 15, 2015





## **Average Monthly Wage FIRST QUARTER 2015\***



## Unemployment and Wages

Box Elder County's unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in July 2015. This is 0.2 percentage points below the July 2014 rate and just slightly higher than the state average of 3.6 percent.

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Initial claims for unemployment insurance are averaging less than 20 per week as of mid-August 2015. Levels this low have not been seen in Box Elder since 2007.



The uptick in wages at the end of 2014 did not carry forward in 2015 unfortunately. Box Elder wages were relatively flat at just 1.1 percent year-over growth in Q1 2015, rising slightly to \$2,934 per month.



Statewide wage growth was similarly slow at 1.8 percent.

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<sup>\*</sup>Preliminary; Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Utah Department of Workforce Services.

### **Construction Permitting JANUARY-JUNE 2015**



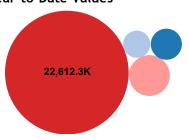
**Dwelling Unit Permits** 







#### 2015 Year-to-Date Values



#### Change in Total Values



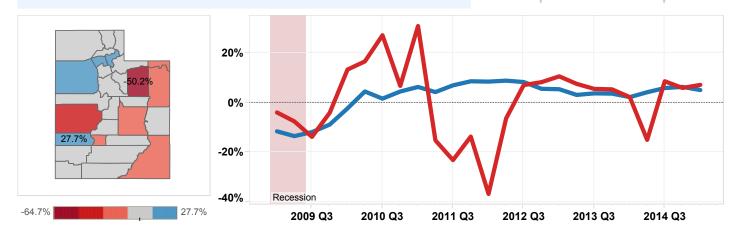
# **Year-to-Year Change In Gross Taxable Sales FIRST QUARTER 2015**

**Box Elder County** 

State of Utah

\$ 7.1%

5.1%



# Construction and Sales

Residential construction continued its downward trend through May 2015. Permitted units were down to 94 YTD in May 2015, a 34 percent decrease since the same timeframe in 2014.



The value of permitted nonresidential construction has fallen 63 percent over 2013, but the total values are up 27 percent indicating that despite the decline in the number of residential units, on average, they are worth more.



Taxable sales in Box Elder County increased 7.1 percent year-over in Q1 2015, reaching more than \$145 million.



Retail and private motor vehicle sales together increased sales more than \$5.5 million over Q1 2014 to reach \$26.8 million total. Every area of retail sales saw improvement, but retail building materials, garden equipment, and supplies saw particular strength wit..

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<sup>\*</sup>Preliminarv

### Nonfarm Jobs by Month FIRST QTR 2015\*

January 2015 February 2015 March 2015 Year-Ago Year-Ago Year-Ago Year-Ago Year-Ago % Year-Ago Industry **Total Jobs** Numeric **Total Jobs** Numeric **Total Jobs** Numeric % Change Change % Change Change Change Change Total 17,384 1.9% 317 17,449 2.24% 382 17,868 3.06% 530 **Goods Production** 6,189 3.6% 214 6,179 3.41% 204 6.438 2.42% 152 Mining 23 9.5% 2 20 -4.76% -1 13 -58.06% -18 0.9% 1.05% Construction 1.081 10 1.111 3.73% 40 1.346 14 Manufacturing 3.17% 5,085 4.1% 202 5,048 3.38% 165 5,079 156 Service Production 11.195 0.9% 11.270 1.60% 178 3.42% 103 11,430 378 3.482 0.2% 6 3 547 2 04% 71 3.622 5.14% 177 **Trade Transport Utilities** Wholesale Trade 534 2.9% 15 529 1.93% 10 550 3.58% 19 **Retail Trade** 1.658 -1.4% -23 1,731 2.97% 50 1.752 7.03% 115 Transportation and Warehousing 1,251 1.0% 12 1.247 0.65% 8 1,271 2.91% 36 Utilities 5.4% 2 16.67% 39 40 8.11% 3 49 7 2.91% Information 106 2.9% 3 106 3 102 0.99% **Financial Activities** 353 -4.6% -17 348 -5.95% -22 348 -7.94% -30 Finance and Insurance 274 -1.4% -4 273 -1.80% -5 273 -4.21% -12 Real Estate and Rental and Leasing 79 -14.1% -13 75 -18.48% -17 75 -19.35% -18 **Professional and Business Services** 1,018 3.6% 35 1,002 1.93% 19 1,047 9.86% 94 Professional/Scientific/Techn Srvcs 238 -19.6% -58 240 -18.92% -56 246 -6.11% -16 Administrative Support/Waste 632 -6.2% -42 605 -10.24% -69 619 -7.75% -52 Mgmnt Educational, Health and Social 1.760 4.9% 82 66 79 1.744 3.93% 1.757 4.71% Services 8.3% 6.82% 9 142 7.58% 143 11 141 10 **Educational Services Health Care and Social Services** 1,603 4.6% 3.69% 4.46% 69 1.617 71 57 1.615 1.327 -0.2% -2 1.371 3.16% 2.42% Leisure and Hospitality 42 1 439 34 Arts, Entertainment and Recreation -10.3% -18 162 -7.43% -13 159 -14.52% -27 157 1.4% **Accommodation and Food Services** 1,170 16 1,209 4.77% 55 1,280 5.00% Other Services 330 -7.6% -27 314 -12.04% -43 327 -9.17% -33 0.8% 2.05% Government 2,819 23 2,838 1.50% 42 2,788 56 Federal -3.0% -6 -9 -3.54% 189 -4.55% -7 State 210 1.0% 2 213 2.40% 5 215 1.90% 4 2,382 2.54% Local 2.417 1.1% 27 2,436 1.92% 46 59 Covered Ag, Forestry, Fishing & 331 -14.47% 337 -3.7% -13 339 -3.14% -11 -56 Hunting\*

Note: Detail may not add to total due to rounding and the exclusion of confidential data. Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

<sup>\*</sup> Not included in total.